Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 L-03 H-01 /082 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TIMBS:REFRITTS:EA:EHHEGINBOTHAM:LGR APPROVED BY EA - ROBERT B. OAKLEY EB - MR. FERCH (SUBST) EA/EP - MR. GEBER D - MR. PASCOE E- MR. ROSS

-----122538 200429Z /15

R 192200Z JUL 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA AMEMBASSY MANILA AMEMBASSY BANGKOK AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, PORG, ASEAN

SUBJECT: INDONESIAN MINISTER OF STATE WIDJOJO VISIT: MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC ISSUES

1. INDONESIAN MINSTATE WIDJOJO VISITED WASHINGTON JULY 8-13 AND MET WITH DEPSEC CHRISTOPHER AND UNDER SEC ECON COOPER, DEP UNDER SEC TREASURY SOLOMON, STR STRAUSS AND OTHER OFFICIALS. MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC ISSUES DISCUSSED AT STATE WERE AS FOLLOW:

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(A) ASEAN - WIDJOJO NOTED TO CHRISTOPHER (JULY 11) THAT ASEAN COOPERATION HAS DEVELOPED STRONGLY OVER PAST TWO YEARS PARTICULARLY IN ECONOMIC FIELD AND HOPED FOR CONTINUING DIALOGUE BETWEEN ASEAN AND THE US. IN RESPONSE, CHRISTOPHER NOTED IMPORTANCE WE PLACE ON FORTHCOMING US-ASEAN ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS. MENTIONING SECRETARY'S JUNE 30 STATEMENT, HE STRESSED OUR INTEREST IN SEA "NO

LESS DEEP AND NO LESS GREAT" EVEN IN ABSENCE MILITARY INVOLVEMENT AND WE APPRECIATE FUTURE OF ASEAN. WIDJOJO IMPLIED ASEAN SUMMIT WOULD ONLY CONFIRM PAST DECISIONS AND DECIDE ON CLOSER COOPERATION.

WITH COOPER (JULY 12), WIDJOJO RELATED ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS AGREEMENT TO TAKE THE LEAD DURING US-ASEAN

CONSULTATIONS ON ITEMS OF PRIMARY ECONOMIC CONTENT. HE EXPRESSED INTENT DISCUSS MATTER WITH PHILIPPINE MINISTER PATERNO WITH THE AIM OF ASSURING ECONOMIC MINISTER PARTICIPATION. (COMMENT: MEANWHILE EA CONTINUES TO COOPERATE FULLY AND PROCEED AS SCHEDULED IN ARRANGEMENTS WITH GOP MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS). WIDJOJO SAID ASEAN SUMMIT EARLY AUGUST MAY ALSO NEED TO ADDRESS QUESTION OF REPRESENTATION AT US-ASEAN CONSULTATIONS. WIDJOJO SPECIFIED COMMODITIES, US TAX DEFERRAL POLICY AND MARKET ACCESS FOR EXPORTS AS TOPICS OF PRIMARY INTEREST TO ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS. COOPER SUGGESTED THAT NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AGENDA SHOULD ALSO BE ON THE LIST IN ORDER PERMIT DISCUSSION ON HOW WE SHOULD PROCEED FURTHER ON PENDING ISSUES.

WIDJOJO ALSO ASSURED COOPER THAT COOPER/STRAUSS VISIT TO ASEAN COUNTRIES WOULD BE WARMLY WELCOMED. COOPER STRESSED THAT THE VISIT WAS PRESIDENT CARTER'S IDEA, SPECIFYING HIS CONFIDENTIAL.

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KEEN INTEREST IN THE AREA. WIDJOJO SUGGESTED TIMING COULD DEPEND ON AVAILABILITY OF KEY ASEAN ECONOMIC OFFICIALS.

- (B) NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE CHRISTOPHER EXPRESSED APPRECIATION INDONESIAN AND WIDJOJO'S LEADERSHIP AT RECENT CIEC MEETING PARIS AND INQUIRED WHITHER NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS. WIDJOJO NOTED PARIS CONFERENCE ONLY A STAGE AND IMPETUS SHOULD NOW BE CARRIED FORWARD IN OTHER FORUMS SUCH AS UNCTAD (NOV.) AND FAO ROME (NOV.). IN RESPONSE CHRISTOPHER'S QUERIES, WIDJOJO STATED THERE IS ROOM FOR A SMALLER REVIEW GROUP (POSSIBLY SUCH AS PROPOSED BY VENEZUELA). SHORT DISCUSSION ON UTILITY UN IN TERMS INTEGRATING ENERGY TOPIC (OPEC) INTO N-S DISCUSSION LED TO WIDJOJO COMMENT THAT UN OPTION HAD BEEN RAISED TOO LATE AT CIEC TO BE CONSIDERED, BUT IS WORTHY OF RAISING AGAIN (POSSIBLY DURING UNGA).
- (C) COMMODITY POLICY COOPER STRESSED DETERMINATION OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION TO MOVE FORWARD PROMPTLY TO DETERMINE WHAT AGREEMENTS MIGHT BE REACHED ON SPECIFIC COMMODITIES SUCH AS RUBBER AND TIN. HE SAID US FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO AGREE TO ADVANCE ITS THINKING ON THE COMMON

FUND, WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT IT WILL SUPPORT.

(D) PREFERENTIAL TRADE RELATIONS WITH JAPAN - PROVIDED STATE 165551. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a **Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED**

Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 19-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE168385
Document Source: Concept History: Concept H

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: REFRITTS:EA:EHHEGINBOTHAM:LGR

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D770257-0353

Format: TEL

From: STATE Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770741/aaaabjmh.tel

Line Count: 120 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7d549a67-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 26-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 1814552 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

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TAGS: EAID, PORG, OVIP, ECIN, US, ID, ASEAN To: JAKARTA MANILA MULTIPLE

Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7d549a67-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009